

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-14 and 27-31 without prejudice.

REMARKS

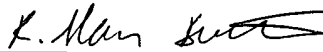
Examination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant received a restriction requirement in the parent case of the present application. This Preliminary Amendment is submitted together with a divisional application to (1) insert the required cross-reference to the parent case, and (2) cancel the claims elected in the parent case and continue prosecution of claims not elected in the parent case. No new matter has been added. Claims 15-26 remain pending in this application.

Charge Deposit Account

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any underpayment that may be due in this matter, and please credit the same deposit account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



R. Alan Burnett
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 46,149

Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP
12400 Wilshire Boulevard, 7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
Phone: (206) 292-8600
Facsimile: (206) 292-8606

Enclosures: Divisional application (25 pages)
Figures (14 sheets)
Application transmittal
Fee transmittal
Postcard